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Attorneys for Defendants

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

STEVEN ARTHUR LATULIPPE, M.D.,

Plaintiff,

v.

KATHLEEN HARDER, in her official capacity as Chair of the Oregon Medical Board; SAURABH GUPTA, in her official capacity as Vice Chair of the Oregon Medical Board; ERIN CRAMER, in her official capacity as Secretary/Physician Assistant Member of the Oregon Medical Board; ROBERT M. CAHN, in his official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; JAMES K. LACE, in his official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; CHARLOTTE LIN, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; PATTI LOUIE, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; JENNIFER L. LYONS, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board;

Case No. 3:21-cv-00090-HZ

DECLARATON OF MARC ABRAMS IN SUPPORT OF PARTIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

Page 1 - DECLARATON OF MARC ABRAMS IN SUPPORT OF PARTIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

Department of Justice 1162 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301-4096 (503) 947-4700 / Fax: (503) 947-4791 ALI MAGEEHON, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; CHERE PEREIRA, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; CHRISTOFFER POULSEN, in his official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; ANDREW SCHINK, in his official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board; JILL SHAW, in her official capacity as a member of the Oregon Medical Board,

Defendants.

- 1. I am Assistant Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Litigation Section of the Oregon Department of Justice ("DOJ"), and I am one of the attorneys representing Kathleen Harder, Saurabh Gupta, Erin Cramer, Robert M. Cahn, James K. Lace, Charlotte Lin, Patti Louie, Jennifer L. Lyons, Ali Mageehon, Chere Pereira, Chrisoffer Poulsen, Andrew Schink and Jill Shaw in this action.
- 2. Attached to this declaration as Exhibit A is the transcript of the oral argument on plaintiff's motion for a temporary restraining order dated February 4, 2021.

I hereby declare that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I understand it is made for use as evidence in court and is subject to penalty for perjury.

DATED March 18, 2021.

s/Marc Abrams
MARC ABRAMS
Assistant Attorney-in-Charge

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON				
3	PORTLAND DIVISION				
4					
5	STEVEN ARTHUR LATULIPPE,)				
6	Plaintiff,) No. 3:21-cv-00090-HZ				
7	vs.) February 4, 2021				
8	KATHLEEN HARDER, et al,) Portland, Oregon				
9	Defendants.)				
10					
11					
12					
13	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS				
14	(Oral Argument)				
15					
16	BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARCO A. HERNANDEZ				
17	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CHIEF JUDGE				
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23	Court Reporter: Ryan White, RMR, CRR, CSR/CCR United States District Courthouse				
24	1000 SW 3rd Avenue, Room 301 Portland, Oregon 97204				
25	(503) 326-8184				

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1	(February 4, 2021; 1:41 p.m.)
2	
3	PROCEEDINGS
4	
5	THE COURT: Good afternoon.
6	MR. ABRAMS: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
7	THE COURT: We are here in the matter of LaTulippe
8	versus Harder. It is case number 21-cv-00090-HZ. This matter
9	comes to the court by way of a hearing on a motion for a
10	temporary restraining order.
11	Before we begin, I want to take roll and find out who
12	is on the call this afternoon. So let me first begin by asking
13	whether I have a court reporter that can hear me.
14	Ryan, are you on?
15	THE COURT REPROTER: (Indicating.)
16	THE COURT: Okay. Good.
17	And then secondly, who's here for the plaintiff?
18	MS. GONDEIRO: Mariah Gondiero, Your Honor.
19	THE COURT: Thank you.
20	And for the defense?
21	MR. ABRAMS: Mark Abrams, Oregon Department of
22	Justice, Your Honor. On the phone, Christina Beatty-Walters and
23	Jessica Spooner.
24	THE COURT: And who is going to be arguing for the
25	state?

1 MR. ABRAMS: I will, Your Honor. 2 THE COURT: All right. So let's begin our 3 conversation starting with the plaintiff. The plaintiff has the 4 burden of proof and has to do the convincing this afternoon, so 5 we'll start -- we'll start there. What does the plaintiff want to tell me? 6 7 And I guess I should say that I've read everything 8 that you've submitted. Just be aware of that. 9 MS. GONDEIRO: Thank you, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: And let's start with the plaintiff. 11 What do you want to tell me? 12 MS. GONDEIRO: Thank you, Your Honor. 13 This Court should immediately reinstate 14 Dr. LaTulippe's license because the defendants violated his procedural due process rights and he is suffering irreparable 15 16 harm that is concrete and increasing daily. 17 In regards to the merits, Dr. LaTulippe has alleged a 18 due process violation. The Court looks at three issues: 19 liberty of property interest protected by the constitution, a 20 deprivation of the interest by the government, and a lack of due process. 2.1 22 The two issues really aren't in dispute right now: 23 The plaintiff self-evidently has an interest in his medical 24 license and it is a constitutionally-protected interest that the 25 Supreme Court has acknowledged. And it's also not disputed that

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the defendants have deprived Dr. LaTulippe of his property interest by taking away his license.

The main issue that is before this Court is whether Dr. LaTulippe has alleged a lack of due process.

The Supreme Court in Cleveland Board of Education has described the root requirement of due process as requiring that an individual be given an opportunity for a hearing before he is deprived of any significant property. Indeed, Oregon law requires the board provide a contested hearing before revoking or suspending a license.

THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Ms. -
MS. GONDEIRO: -- in the case of an emergency -
THE COURT REPORTER: Sorry.

Yes, Ms. Gondeiro. It sounds like you might be reading. But if you could please slow down, especially with our audio. You need to slow down, please.

MS. GONDEIRO: Yes.

It is only in a case of an emergency where a doctor poses an imminent danger to the public that the board may suspend a license without first providing a hearing. The defendants have woefully failed to demonstrate that Dr. LaTulippe poses an imminent danger to the public.

This is not a case where the board has specific evidence that Dr. LaTulippe has harmed a patient such as by performing an illegal abortion. Here, the board's basis is

based upon vaque allegations of anonymous accusers and 1 2 speculative hypotheticals that have no real basis in fact. 3 THE COURT: Let me interrupt you about that point for 4 just a minute. 5 Is there a disagreement that the plaintiff, Dr. LaTulippe, in this case, is not abiding by the health 6 7 authority's mandate and the governor's mandate that he wear a 8 mask while he's treating his patients and the people in this 9 clinic wear a mask while he's treating his patients? Is that in 10 dispute? 11 MS. GONDEIRO: Well, Your Honor, they really haven't 12 met their burden of showing that he is -- that the people in his 13 clinic are not wearing a mask or have reasons why they're not 14 wearing a mask. Many of them, as you will see in the declaration, have claimed that they do not wear a mask because 15 16 it causes them discomfort. 17 THE COURT: I'm not talking about that. I'm talking 18 about the providers, him and his -- and the people that work for 19 Is that in dispute? him. 20 MS. GONDEIRO: That he follows the Oregon health -- public health order? 21 22 I said does he wear a mask? THE COURT: No. 23 MS. GONDEIRO: He does not wear a mask at all times. 24 THE COURT: All right. And then in addition to him, 25 the other people that work with him also do not wear a mask; is

that correct?

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MS. GONDEIRO: Yes, Your Honor. But as they say in the -- their declarations, many of them have reasons why they do not wear a mask.

THE COURT: The people that work there?

MS. GONDEIRO: They do work there, Your Honor. There are two people: There is the receptionist and then Dr. LaTulippe's wife.

THE COURT: And none of those people are wearing masks; is that correct?

MS. GONDEIRO: No, Your Honor. Or, yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. And in -- and the reason

Dr. LaTulippe and perhaps the people that work with him are not wearing a mask is that he disagrees with the -- with I'm going to say -- use the word "science," but he disagrees with the science right now that says that it is better, safer, and mandated by law that individuals that are providing healthcare wear masks. He disagrees with that perspective; is that correct?

MS. GONDEIRO: Your Honor, I think that he, and as well as reputable studies and reputable experts, would disagree with many of the scientific opinions of the board.

But I do not think that is the reason and it's not alleged in the complaint that the two employees that work there do not wear masks. As they claim in their declaration, they

have anxiety and asthma. If they wear a mask, they have, you know, terrible side effects.

But I think what's important to note is that the board hasn't even alleged an actual threat or real evidence of harm.

And as we allege in the complaint, they make sure that all COVID-19 patients are not around other people. There have been no COVID-19 transmissions traced to the office.

And also, Your Honor, as I get back to, you know, their justification, which is based on the emergency exception, not only are the allegations not true, Your Honor, as we contest in the complaint, he has never told anyone that they should not wear a mask in the office. Many of the allegations are simply not true and, most importantly, they have yet to prove any real evidence.

The need for a predetermination hearing is required when a defendant cannot satisfy the three-prong test laid out in <code>Mathews v. Eldridge.</code> This test includes the private interest affected, the risk of an erroneous deprivation through the procedures used, and the value of other safeguards and the government's interests.

An individual's private interest in his business, in his livelihood, is significant. The Supreme Court has consistently recognized the severity of depriving someone of their means of livelihood, and that is exactly what the board has done. They have deprived him of his livelihood and his

ability to make a living.

Regarding the second prong, which I think is the most important issue that we're discussing, the risk of an erroneous deprivation must be considered under the procedures used by defendants along with the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards.

Here, a pre-deprivation hearing would have eliminated the risk of erroneous deprivation. As the Supreme Court has recognized in *Cleveland Board of Education*, dismissals, or in this case a suspension, will often involve factual disputes. That is definitely the case here.

Many of the board's allegations are factually erroneous. Dr. LaTulippe has never told a patient he could not treat them if they wore a mask. Indeed, if the board would have actually conducted an early hearing and done their due diligence, they would have learned that their concerns were completely unfounded. Dr. LaTulippe has not contributed to any known COVID-19 case. His COVID-19 protocol is highly successful.

Further, the order of suspension is defective and failed to provide Dr. LaTulippe proper notice. For one, the board doesn't articulate in the appropriate place which laws Dr. LaTulippe has actually violated. The conclusions of law section does not, in fact, refer to any law that has been violated. The only reference to a violation of law is found in

the findings of fact.

And more importantly, Your Honor, the board does not specify a single act or omission that constitutes a serious danger to the public's health or safety. Notice, to comply with due process requirements, must set forth the alleged misconduct with particularity.

If you look over the findings of fact, none of the allegations are specific. The board relies on an anonymous accuser, but they do not even describe the context of the accuser in Dr. LaTulippe's conversation.

The board also references a YouTube video that provides false information about masks. The board didn't even provide a link to this supposed YouTube video. My client could have posted multiple YouTube videos. How is he supposed to know what YouTube video they're talking about or what to challenge?

And notably, Your Honor, on page 5 of the order, they state that Dr. LaTulippe's conduct might constitute a danger to the health or safety of the public.

Summarized, their justification rests entirely on the prospective notion that Dr. LaTulippe might contribute to the spread of COVID-19. These conclusory findings do not satisfy the specific and particular requirements the Supreme Court requires.

Regarding the final prong, Your Honor, the government interest in immediate termination does not outweigh the first

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two prongs. Affording Dr. LaTulippe an early hearing would not have imposed significant administrative burdens or intolerable delays. A prompt hearing would have actually minimized financial and administrative burdens because the board would have quickly learned their allegations were meritless.

Finally, Your Honor, the balance of equities tips sharply in favor of Dr. LaTulippe and an injunction serves the public interest. The harm to the government and public interest merge when the government is the opposing party.

With respect to a balancing of equities, the speculative harm of the possibility of COVID-19 transmission does not outweigh the instant and definite harm of denying Dr. LaTulippe his constitutionally-protected right to due process, nor his right to make a living in his chosen profession and his patients' need for competent and accessible medical care.

The board has failed to identify a single COVID-19-positive case that can be verifiably traced back to the plaintiff's practice. Speculative injury does not constitute irreparable injury.

Moreover, the board supposedly received an anonymous tip back in the summer. They waited five months to issue an emergency suspension which belies their claim that emergency exists.

On the other hand, Dr. LaTulippe and his clients are

suffering real, concrete injuries that are increasing every day. Dr. LaTulippe has lost everything he has worked towards. He has lost his ability to make a living and provide for his family in the middle of a pandemic where people are suffering.

Further, Your Honor, his clients desperately need his help. He gets calls every single day from his patients who are scared because they don't have another pain specialist to go to in Dallas, Oregon. This isn't a huge city where there's a lot of pain and addiction specialists. He has helped people who were on the brink of suicide because they were in so much pain and they call him crying because they need his help.

And also, Your Honor, many of his clients are relapsing and just struggling. Thus, it is not Dr. LaTulippe that is posing an immediate threat, Your Honor; it is the board's decision to suspend his license.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

I'll hear from the state.

MR. ABRAMS: Thank you, Your Honor.

To start with, a couple of facts, not necessarily responding to Counsel's oral argument, but to some of the response -- reply memo.

They have contended that there is only one anonymous complaint against Dr. LaTulippe. In fact, there are seven, and the citation to that is paragraph 3 of the Carruth declaration.

There is no challenge, as you noted, that

Dr. LaTulippe and his staff are not wearing masks. There is no challenge that most of his patients, anyone who is asymptomatic, have not been made to wear masks. There is no challenge to the idea that he refused to change that practice, and he said so in an August 31, 2020, letter. That is Carruth Declaration Exhibit 2.

Now, as has been made clear, the Oregon OSHA, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Medical Board have all instituted regulations, and the governor has instituted emergency orders that require masks not merely in the professional setting, such as Dr. LaTulippe's office, but whenever any of us go out in public or are in places where people congregate, as, indeed, Your Honor is currently wearing a mask himself.

But the issue here is much simpler than that. The issue is, is Dr. LaTulippe allowed, entitled to pre-deprivation due process.

It is not contested that there's a hearing set, as we mentioned in the status conference a few days back, for February 16th. Indeed, Dr. LaTulippe knew this process was underway in August. He was suspended in early December. He did not reach out to the OMB for a month. If this is irreparable harm, it is curious that he waited a full month before having a discussion with the OMB. And the citation to that is

paragraph 2 of the Foote declaration.

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He was offered a hearing that would have started three days ago, Your Honor. He was offered a hearing that would have started February 1st. He turned it down. So again, more delay, not the OMB's doing, but Dr. LaTulippe's. The citation for that: Foote declaration, paragraph 3.

Now, plaintiff wants to argue the science, and she said -- Counsel has said multiple times, four or five times, in her presentation that OMB has not met its burden. We have no burden. This is their TRO. The burden is -- all aspects is on them.

Nonetheless, we would stand by the science. We have submitted to you the Farris declaration, the Sidelinger declaration. They talk about the help that wearing masks does in combating this disease. They talk about how they do prevent many of the droplets and reduce the risk of threat. That's good enough science to make this the law of the state of Oregon and, in fact, it is the law of the state of Oregon.

Now, plaintiff seems to think that he's immune from that, that he cannot obey if he thinks he knows the science better, and I would suggest to you that if I think the bar rulings on not allowing me to talk to a represented party are foolish, I do not get to talk to an unrepresented party and get away with it. If I'm a physicist who thinks that a yellow light needs to be six seconds long in order to be safe to allow me to

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slow down my car, I do not get to run a four-second red light and take that extra two seconds because I believe the science for setting that red light is wrong.

Plaintiff has suggested not only that the masks don't protect from COVID, but do trap carbon dioxide to a person's detriment. This is bad science. COVID is 120 -- the virus itself is 125 nanometers in size, an eighth of a micron, as the doctor said. CO₂, a carbon dioxide molecule, is 33 nanometers, only one quarter the size. So if there's anybody with suspect science, the doctor's science makes no sense.

And while he has said he studied microbiology, the virus is not transmitted free floating, but it's with much larger respiratory droplets, and you can see that in paragraph 6 of the Farris declaration, paragraph 4 of the Sidelinger declaration, and Exhibit 1 of the Brown declaration at paragraph 3.2.

So moving on to the question of due process, we agree on the three-part test; what is the private interest, what is the erroneous deprivation through the procedures used, what is the government's interest.

The government's interest, I think, is clear. It's keeping the citizens of Oregon safe. The private interest -- and if plaintiff has -- and if somebody is on the phone, they -- it would be nice if they could mute it. I'm hearing background voices.

The private interest has been variously presented as either the plaintiff's patients or the plaintiff's income.

Well, under Winter and under the other cases we've cited in our brief, you do not get to assert another person's harm in support of a temporary restraining order and in support of your pre-deprivation process, and his financial interest is not related to irreparable injury except in certain circumstances.

But the cases cited by plaintiff himself, Laudermill and Tanasse v. City of St. George, and also the case we cited, Gilbert v. Homar, all make clear that pre-deprivation hearings are very rare, and, for example, even if not allowed -- if you're on subsistence, if you're on welfare -- the individual in Laudermill, cited frequently by plaintiffs, was a person receiving welfare benefits. They were deprived in a way that is probably far more serious than a doctor like Dr. LaTulippe who presumably is financially much more comfortably off. They were not entitled to a pre-deprivation hearing.

The idea that there would be a less erroneous deprivation through the procedures used, the procedures used prehearing, pre-deprivation, and post-deprivation are the same. They come out of chapter 183 of the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act. There would not be anything different.

What plaintiff is assuming, what plaintiff is presuming is that if we had heard him, we would have been convinced.

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Now, I do not want to speak for my client and what they will do. I am not on the Oregon Medical Board and the hearing has not taken place yet. But I warrant that when they suspended Dr. LaTulippe because he said "I am not going to put on a mask, I am not going to make my staff put on a mask," and we can conclude based on today's representations that he would still say that, that I warrant there would not be much difference in pre- and post-hearing risk of erroneous deprivation.

Now, that brings us to the elements of the temporary restraining order. The likelihood of success element -- and we are in agreement it's the four elements from *Winter*. Burden of success at all times rests with the plaintiff under *Clinton v*.

Jones, 530 US 681 at 708.

The plaintiff has presumed there is no evidence of actual harm. That is not the standard for suspension.

The standard -- and it's in the document, the suspension document -- is imminent threat of danger. That standard does not require the OMB to conclude or prove the harm has already occurred.

So it's not our duty to show that masks are harmful. Indeed, at most, all we have to do is show what is uncontested; that there was a regulation, that it was applied broadly to everyone, and that Dr. LaTulippe refused to comply. None of those are disputed.

So under *Gilbert*, under *Tanasse*, the law is fairly clear that there is no right to a pre-deprivation hearing. A post-deprivation hearing has already been set and is on the books.

As to irreparable harm, I touched on it a little earlier. Financial harm is not relevant in -- except in very unusual circumstances. That's both *Winter* and *MR v. Dreyfus*, 697 F.3d 706 at 725.

There is almost never a situation in which loss of money constitutes an irreparable injury, and so we just don't think that that is -- that is going to be the standard for irreparable harm. And, indeed, had Dr. LaTulippe called the OMB worried about the suspension, had he accepted an earlier hearing, it all would have been done probably in early December. It seems strange to claim that his license (audio broke) resurrected now because of delays entirely of his own doing.

Now, as to the balance of equities, clearly the parties disagree. And while plaintiff will not agree to the steps to protect public health and safety, you have the Farris and particularly the Sidelinger declaration.

Now, Dr. Sidelinger is the state's epidemiologist.

He's been in charge for last year of keeping Oregonians safe and he's telling you what the good science is and why we have asked every doctor, every person, everyone going to a grocery store to obey these rules, this wearing of a mask. This has been part of

a multifaceted approach that has kept the death rate in Oregon at a fraction of that of other states. We have the fifth lowest death rate in the country, and all four other states -- Maine, Vermont, North Dakota, and I believe it's -- the fourth is either Montana or Hawaii -- are way less than half our size. We are the largest state with the smallest death rate. We're doing something right.

Now, plaintiff claims we can't prove that there have been more cases of COVID-19 as a result of his practice. That assertion is not backed up by any evidence he has put into the record here. And I think plaintiffs have persistently in this hearing and in their paperwork confused making an allegation with establishing a fact. This is not a motion to dismiss hearing, of course; it is a TRO hearing.

And he has not claimed -- he has not put anything in the record in front of you that there's been any contact tracing related to his practice. So whether or not there's been a case, he cannot know.

We know that COVID-19 can be asymptomatic for two weeks. How would we know if he's had a case come out of his situation, his practice? We can't afford to take that risk, and that is why we apply this equally to everyone in Oregon and why that is part of the balance of equities and tips in favor of the state.

Now, to just address briefly the issue that

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it's -- his patients need him. I believe there's a document in the record that shows most of them have been covered by other physicians at this time, but they have persistently and quite simply falsely claimed there's nothing else that can fit their practice convenient for their patients.

Now, as we said in our documents, Salem has four -- not one, not two, but four pain specialty clinics only 15 miles away and the plaintiff does not explain why 15 miles is too inconvenient for someone needing medical help.

Just to give you a comparison, Your Honor, about daily life in Dallas, Oregon, their school, their high school is in the division 5A, section 3 conference. It plays against teams in Corvallis, Lebanon, South Albany. Corvallis is 29 miles away, South Albany is 31 miles away, Lebanon is 47 miles away. Mere entertainment takes the citizens of Dallas quite a bit farther afield. So I would suggest that 15 miles is not too far to go. Dallas is functionally an excerpt of Salem anyway.

So finally, the question of public interest.

The status quo matters here, Your Honor. COVID-19 spreads widely through persons who presume themselves to be healthy. The Harley rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, this last summer created a vector that spiked much in the state of Minnesota. Large mask-less gatherings, whether educational, religious, or otherwise, have caused major outbreaks.

Plaintiff would have the Court toss aside the judgment

of the CDC and medical professionals not only around the nation but, for the most part, around the world and say that he knows better than the groups that regulate and he knows better than the overwhelming consensus of medical opinion. The Court should decline that offer.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And then a reply on the part of the plaintiff? Rebuttal?

MS. GONDEIRO: Yes, Your Honor. There are several things I want to clarify.

First, the defendants claim that there are seven anonymous accusers, but none of those accusers are actually mentioned in the notice, which, again, just goes to show that they -- or they are not mentioned in the order which again goes to show why they did not provide sufficient notice. They don't even -- they don't even put out all the evidence they're relying on, which is a violation of due process.

The defendants also note that they provided notice to Dr. LaTulippe in August. That is completely false. They never notified him that they were going to suspend his license. They let him know that an investigation was open. And it seems very odd to me that they would wait five months to file an emergency suspension if they had this information back in August.

And I also want to talk about the delay, Your Honor.

It's actually the defendant's requirement under state law that they provide a hearing simultaneously when they -- when they suspend someone's license. This was actually not Dr. LaTulippe's burden. But it is very important to know that they abruptly suspended his license without no -- no notice.

So it's not surprising he would -- he would need a month to figure out his insurance so he could afford an attorney, and then, you know, find someone who could help him. A month is not a significantly long time considering the board didn't do their duties in providing a hearing right away and also suspended his license abruptly.

I also want to go to the government interest, Your Honor.

The government interest is, you know, whether they couldn't provide a pre-deprivation hearing prior to suspending his license. They seemed to skirt around the issue of whether it would have cost them, you know, administrative or financial burdens, and I think that's very notable because it wouldn't have cost them anything. They would have conducted this hearing regardless, so they could have provided him a hearing before suspending his license.

I also want to talk about the irreparable injury.

Your Honor, it's irreparable harm when you violate someone's constitutional rights. That constitutes irreparable harm.

And he's not just suffering harm, Your Honor. They have tarnished his reputation. It is now well-known, Your Honor, in the media what has happened. This is going to hurt his earning capacity for years on end and his reputation as a credible doctor.

And Your Honor, I think it's also important to note that they suspended his license over the phone. They couldn't even give him -- they couldn't even serve him a suspension order. He had to learn about it in the media.

And regarding the cases, Your Honor, regarding their burden of showing an emergency, they seem to want to flip the burden. It's their burden to show that he constitutes an emergency and why they should be able to circumvent the normal due process required under Oregon law which is providing a predetermination hearing.

They claim that he hasn't proven that no COVID-19 case has been traced to his office. He actually has alleged that in the complaint. And it's their burden to show that he constitutes an imminent threat and they have, again, failed to do that.

You know, we can argue the science, Your Honor. There are lots of studies. There are a lot of reputable doctors that would disagree with the science they're providing. And I'm not sure why they think that their science is better than our -- the other science that is out there that shows that masks do not

have a material effect in curtailing the spread of COVID-19. There are studies that we cite to in our declaration.

And I also -- finally, Your Honor, I want to talk about the patients.

The board seems to know what is best for the patients, but they don't know what is best for the patients. They rely on Dr. LaTulippe because they trust Dr. LaTulippe. He provides a unique pain treatment that other doctors do not provide. In fact, that is why they go to Dr. LaTulippe, because many of them were just addicted to painkillers and, quite frankly, just didn't have a good quality of life. So that is — that is why they — they rely on Dr. LaTulippe.

So in sum, Your Honor, I do not believe that the board has any justification in not providing my client a predetermination hearing, and I think it's very clear that my client is suffering irreparable harm, not only financial harm, but reputational harm, and the harm to his constitutional rights.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

It is the Court's observation that when you boil it down there really is not a great deal of dispute regarding the facts in this case.

The State of Oregon, through the medical board, learned that the plaintiff was not following the required COVID

protocols in his medical practice. The state notified the plaintiff regarding this issue and received correspondence back from the plaintiff regarding his perspective on the COVID protocols.

Two letters were sent to the plaintiff; one in August, and one in November of 2020. Each letter warned the plaintiff of the possible sanctions for failing to comply with the protocols. The first letter notified the plaintiff that he was under investigation and asked him to respond to the allegations regarding the failure to follow certain COVID protocols.

In addition, there was allegations that along with him not following protocols or failing to follow proper protocols, he was advising others, including his own patients, that masks should not be worn and that -- and he was accused of making posts on social media discouraging people from following distancing guidelines related to COVID.

In the first letter, the plaintiff was told that the investigation was made pursuant to ORS 677.320 and he was expected to respond by September the 3rd. That was the August letter.

In his response, the plaintiff disputed the social distancing allegations and that he had done anything on social media. As regards the masks, he explained that the mask requirements were based on bogus science and explained that he was taking the position he was regarding masks for science

reasons.

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While the first letter described possible outcomes of the investigation and included suspension as a possibility, the second letter merely said that his care of patients was not consistent with the standards, might be unprofessional and dishonorable and dangerous to the health or safety and subject to administrative sanctions. He was told he needed to comply with the law regarding PPE and with the standards of medical care expected by medical professionals.

To that second letter, the plaintiff responded by saying he was doing a good job, there were no infections at his clinic, but did not say that he would comply with the PPE requirements.

Then, in December, the OMB investigator went to the clinic, and based on the investigation, the OMB found that masks were only required at the clinic if someone had COVID or other symptoms but that patients and providers were not wearing masks.

After learning that and gathering the information that it had, the OMB issued an emergency suspension order based both on ORS 677.25 -- 205(3) and 183.430(2). They did that because they felt that plaintiff's practice was an immediate danger to the public and presented a serious danger to the public's health or safety.

The notice that was given to the plaintiff in that suspension order said that he had a right to a hearing as soon

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as practicable, and after a month, the plaintiff asked for a hearing which is now scheduled for February the 16th. It's also true that there was an earlier hearing date available, but the plaintiff needed a little bit more time.

Thereafter, the plaintiff sued in this court alleging violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendment and seeking a temporary restraining order based on procedural due process.

Regarding a restraining order, the Court is to evaluate the four Winter factors: First, the likelihood of success on the merits; second, the issue of irreparable harm; third, the Court is to consider the equities as between the parties; and, finally, the Court is to consider the interests of the public.

As regards the likelihood of success on the merits, I consider the issue under *Gilbert*, and there's the three factors that the parties have asked me to take a look at: The private interest and how that will be affected; secondly, the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such an interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, for additional substantive procedural safeguards; and, third, the government's interests including the function involved in the fiscal and administrative burdens additional or substitute procedural requirements would entail.

In looking at the private interests, it is the defendant's ability to earn a living which has been temporarily

suspended and will ultimately be decided at a hearing which is scheduled in a couple of weeks.

The other factor, the risk of erroneous deprivation, I think the Court needs to take a look at what would have been different had the matter immediately proceeded to some type of hearing and whether there was a risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interests. The Court finds there is not.

In this case, once again, there are little or few disputes about the facts. It is clear that the doctor, for his own reasons, reasons that he believes are scientifically based, is not complying with PPE protocols. That was true before his — when he first learned that he was under investigation and continued to be true up through the time that he was suspended. Having had a hearing earlier on would not have changed that reality.

And it is not this Court's job to judge the science. This is a summary proceeding. I'm not judging who's right or who's wrong about the science. It is clear that the state has promulgated rules which physicians and everybody else is expected to comply with.

So that factor, the risk of erroneous deprivation, I find tips in the favor of the state.

And then finally, the government's interest.

The government has a very large interest in making sure people are safe. These existing protocols support that

view.

Under ORS 677.205(3), it states that, "If the board finds that evidence in its possession indicates that a continuation in the practice of a license constitutes an immediate danger to the public..." It does not say that the state must show that someone has in fact been harmed. It simply states that the board finds that the evidence in its possession indicates the continuation and practice of a license constitutes immediate danger. The board in this case made that finding.

In addition, part of the Court's consideration is the time between the deprivation, that is when the license was suspended, until a hearing, and in this case the Court finds that that period of time is not unreasonable. The plaintiff is entitled to a post-deprivation hearing and has one scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Other factors that are important to the Court to consider are the risk of not acting. There is some risk that the state might be incorrect about all of this. But again, there is a hearing scheduled which will address that issue. On the other hand, if the state is correct, then lives may well be saved by the steps that the state has taken.

In turning to the *Winter* factors, is there a likelihood of success on the merits on the part of plaintiff? I find there is not a likelihood of success on the merits for the reasons that I have described. The state followed the ORSs

under 677.205, found that there was an emergency, and has provided for a hearing within a short period of time; therefore, I do not find that on the Fourteenth Amendment claim the plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits.

As regards irreparable harm, the irreparable harm prong only goes to the irreparability of harm as regards the plaintiff. And in this case, his ability to earn a living is temporarily suspended under the statute until a hearing can take place and a decision on the merits can be made. I do not find that that harm is irreparable, particularly in light of the fact that he gets a lot of process and hearing which will occur within the next couple of weeks.

As regards the balance of equities, the plaintiff's need for a license in order to make a living as against the risk of harm that can occur as a result of a pandemic and the spread of a deadly disease, I find that the balance of equities tips in favor of the state.

And as regards the public interest, in this case, I do give some consideration to the patients of Dr. LaTulippe because they are, in fact, members of the public. But as regards the interests of that population and the general public and the risk of a pandemic spreading through the general public as a result of Dr. LaTulippe's decisionmaking process, I find, again, that factor tips in favor of the state.

For those reasons, the motion for a temporary

restraining order is denied. This case will now proceed to the next phase which will be a hearing on a preliminary injunction.

I believe I have told you that I have an interest in making this decision today because I was aware that a hearing was coming up quickly.

At this juncture, I want the parties to confer about proposed dates for the next phase. That will allow for discovery to take place between now and the next date for a preliminary injunction. And after the parties have conferred, please contact the court. We'll set a scheduling conference and we will move on from there.

Is there anything else from the plaintiff's perspective at this juncture?

MS. GONDEIRO: Your Honor, there is two important things.

One is, regarding the hearing, even though it's on the 16th, it doesn't end until the 21st, and then the earliest time that they can actually issue a decision is April 1st because the administrative law judge has to confer with the board. So even though the hearing is coming up, he won't get a decision for a few more months.

And as I -- I guess I just -- there are two main things I disagree with. There are many disputed facts. The order, the client does actually dispute the allegations and the findings of fact. Those are not actually undisputed. He --

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That's not really what my question was THE COURT: My question was: Is there anything else that you focused on. need me to address at this moment? MS. GONDEIRO: No, just the hearing, letting you know that hearing timeline. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Is there anything else from the defense that you need me to address at this juncture? MR. ABRAMS: Your Honor, we are going to have a conference call with plaintiff's counsel shortly after this hearing ends to deal with the scheduling, just to let you know that. Our only question is, is there anything that is of particular interest to you that you would like us to focus on in preparing for the preliminary injunction to assist the Court in its function? THE COURT: There's nothing that I can think of at this particular juncture. Everything that occurred during the preparation for the temporary restraining order, from my perspective, was comprehensive. It may be that in discovery the parties will learn other things that may be relevant to the Court's decision at a preliminary injunction hearing. cannot predict. MR. ABRAMS: Thank you, Your Honor. Nothing further from us.

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THE COURT: Thank you. That's all for today.
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                Thank you.
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                 (The proceedings concluded at 2:33 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I certify, by signing below, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference/telephonic hearing taken by stenographic means. Due to the videoconference/telephonic connection, parties appearing via videoconference, speakerphone or cell phone, speakers overlapping when speaking, speakers not identifying themselves before they speak, fast speakers, the speaker's failure to enunciate, and/or other technical difficulties that occur during videoconference/telephonic proceedings, this certification is limited by the above-mentioned reasons and any technological difficulties of such proceedings occurring over the videoconference/speakerphone at the United States District Court of Oregon in the above-entitled cause. A transcript without an original signature, conformed signature, or digitally signed signature is not certified.

DATED this 21st day of February, 2021.

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// Ryan White

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Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on March <u>18</u>, 2021, I served the foregoing DECLARATON OF MARC ABRAMS IN SUPPORT OF PARTIAL MOTION TO DISMISS upon the parties hereto by the method indicated below, and addressed to the following:

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